

HOORAY! It is official! By unanimous vote, the Nebraska State Board of Education voted on 6 December 2013 to immediately release Nebraska K-12 Fine Arts Standards draft for public input!

Thank you to Rex Barker (*Millard Public Schools*), Joan Reist (*Nebraskans for the Arts*), & Suzanne Wise (*Nebraska Arts Council*) for speaking. Thank you to attendees Anne Alston (*NAC*), Ray Lowther (*Lincoln Public Schools*), Jed O'Leary (*Fremont Public Schools*), Lorinda Rice (*Lincoln Public Schools*), Marty Skomal (*Nebraska Arts Council*), and Ellen Struve (*Nebraska Arts Council*).

Thanks to Donlynn Rice for her continued guidance through this amazing process!

***Now what? Electronically or otherwise, please take advantage of your opportunities for input!***

**December 6** Fine Arts Standards (FAS) draft on NDE website <http://www.education.ne.gov/FineArts/index.html> and also on Nebraska Department of Education Home page: <http://www.education.ne.gov/index.html>

**December 6- January 17** email FAS comments to [nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov](mailto:nde.standardsinput@nebraska.gov)

**December 6- January 17** send FAS written comments to

Fine Arts Standards Input: Debbie DeFrain  
Nebraska Department of Education  
PO Box 94987, 301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

**December 6- January 17** electronic survey <http://www.education.ne.gov/FineArts/index.html>

There will be a direct link available at a later time. This will include a brief video introduction to the FAS, instructions on accessing the FAS, instructions on the survey, and the survey itself.

**December/January** external validation. More information TBA.

**January 16** public hearing to be held in the State Board Room at NDE. More information TBA. Statewide remote ESU locations will be established and announced to allow for public meeting testimony.

**January 17** electronic survey closes.

**January 22** editing committees meet. **Editors - Please SAVE THE DATE**. We will take into consideration all of the comments submitted up to that point as we fine-tune the FAS.

**January 24** is the written permission deadline to be placed on February 3 State Board Work Session agenda for public comment. There is NOT a general public comment session without being placed on the written agenda. [http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Public\\_Participation.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Public_Participation.html)

*According to State Board Policy B12, any citizen or spokesperson for a group of citizens may request an appearance before the State Board of Education at any regular meeting or work session of the Board except when the Board declares itself to be in executive session, and may address the Board provided a request for such address has been made to the Commissioner of Education, or Board members in writing at least ten days in advance of the meeting in order to permit such appearance to be*

*placed on the published agenda. Such appearance, if granted by the Board President, may be limited to ten minutes unless an extension is granted by the President or a vote by the majority of the Board.*

*In addition, the published agenda of every regular meeting of the State Board shall contain an item identified as Public Comment Period. This period, which may be fifteen minutes in duration, may be available to any person who wishes to address the State Board on any subject within its authority that is not on the agenda. The order of appearance during the Public Comment Period may be determined by the President from among those who indicate their presence and their desire to speak at the beginning of each such period. If more than three people wish to appear at any Public Comment Period, the President may select which three persons may appear. No appearance during any Public Comment Period may exceed five minutes unless an extension is granted by the President.*

*The Board President may designate agenda items where public comment may be taken on that agenda item. Fifteen minutes may be allowed for such comment on each designated item.*

*The Board President may also choose to allow public comment at any time during a meeting. A majority of members present and voting may also choose to allow public comment at any time. The President or majority of members present and voting may terminate or reduce the time for public comment at any time.*

**January 25** is the written permission deadline to be placed on February 4 State Board Business Meeting agenda for public comment. You may or may not have time to speak at the general public comment session without being placed on the written agenda. Please see the above State Board Policy B12.  
[http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Public\\_Participation.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Public_Participation.html)

**January 27** State Board Standards subcommittee meet with Donlynn Rice and Debbie DeFrain during the Unicameral Legislative Retreat and present the files edited on/after January 22. We will take comments of the subcommittee into consideration, do further editing as needed, and send files on to the full board.

**February 3-4** State Board considers Fine Arts Standards draft for approval.

Lincoln Journal-Star coverage of December 5, 2013 meeting:

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/proposed-school-standards-tout-importance-of-fine-arts/article\\_1fb5573d-4f61-52c3-aa6c-223f8d74100d.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/education/proposed-school-standards-tout-importance-of-fine-arts/article_1fb5573d-4f61-52c3-aa6c-223f8d74100d.html)

Omaha World-Herald coverage of December 5, 2013 meeting:

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20131206/NEWS/131209282#nebraska-proposes-its-first-state-school-standards-for-fine-arts>

December 5, 2013 presentation/discussion and December 6, 2013 action item/vote (as soon as NDE IT folks are able to update the website): [http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Video\\_Archives.html](http://www.education.ne.gov/StateBoard/Video_Archives.html)

As always, thank you for your interest. **Thank you for your support of Fine Arts!**

**Debbie DeFrain**

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*"It is MUSIC and DANCING that make me at PEACE with the WORLD." ~Nelson Mandela*